

National WEEE Assessment 2026

Belize



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National WEEE Assessment 2026

Belize

Abstract & Authors

This national assessment report provides a comprehensive assessment of WEEE management in Belize, including material flow analysis, economic evaluation, infrastructure assessment, and technical capacities.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
ASR	American Sugar Refining
BAP	Best Available Techniques
BCRC	Basel Convention Regional Center
BEL	Belize Electricity Limited
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOE	Department of the Environment
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
ELV	End-of-life vehicle
EPR	Extended Producers Responsibility
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCI	Human Capital Index
HS	Harmonized System
kg	Kilograms
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Abbreviations	
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPEP	New Providence Ecology Park
NWG	National Working Group
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POM	Put on the Market
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SUWAMA	Suriname Waste Management
SWaMA	Solid Waste Management Authority
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Project
UNITAR – Scycle	United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Sustainable Cycles programme
UNU – KEYS	United Nations University KEYS
USD	United States Dollars
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Introduction

Global and regional e-waste situation

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) refers to all products that have circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply (StEP Initiative, 2014). EEE encompasses a wide range of products used by households and businesses, including refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, and hairdryers, as well as electronic devices such as mobile phones, wireless headphones, and tablets.

High-income countries average 109 EEE items per capita, while low-income countries can average as few as 4 items per capita (Baldé et al. 2024). EEE becomes e-waste, or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), once it is discarded by its owner with no intention of reusing the item (StEP Initiative, 2014). In this study, the authors decided to use both the term WEEE and e-waste, the first one being more in line with the European Union (EU) terminology and the second one having a more global meaning. The classification of WEEE is illustrated in the next sections (see [chapter 2](#)).

According to the recently published Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024), in 2022 a record 62 billion kg of e-waste or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) was generated globally (equivalent to an average of 7.8 kg per capita per year). However, only 22.3 per cent of this e-waste mass was documented as formally collected and recycled in an environmentally sound manner.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5. When the total benefits from viable recovery of metals as secondary resources (USD 28 billion) and the monetized savings of avoided greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (USD 23 billion) are deducted from the costs of e-waste treatment (USD 10 billion) and externalized costs to human health and the environment (USD 78 billion), the result is a net loss of USD 37 billion in the world's current e-waste management practices.

According to the Global E-waste Monitor, 13.8 billion kg of global e-waste that undergoes environmentally sound treatment at a cost USD 0.36/kg; this is 3 times more than the average cost of e-waste disposed of as residual waste, recycled outside compliant recycling schemes or managed by the informal sector (USD 0.12/kg). The higher treatment costs are mostly attributable to the costs of depolluting e-waste and auditing, administration and attaining the minimum environmental health and safety standards associated with compliant management of e-waste.

The situation related to WEEE management varies significantly in different regions of the world. In the Caribbean, the amount of e-waste grew by more than 60 per cent from 148 million kg in 2010 to 241 million kg in 2022. This equals the generation of 7.6 kg/capita per year of e-waste and is close to the global average of 7.8. The documented formal e-waste collection rate in the Caribbean region was close to 0% in 2022, which is significantly lower than the global average of 22.3 per cent.

Hence, e-waste management poses a pressing challenge in the Caribbean region, in the absence of specific regulations and policies addressing the issue and the absence of a formal e-waste management infrastructure. E-waste management responsibilities in different Caribbean countries are shared among various entities.

Since 2010, globally the growth of e-waste generation is outpacing the formal collection and recycling by almost a factor of 5.

Overview of the consultancy

The Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme of UNITAR, Division for Planet, has been contracted by the BCRC Caribbean to conduct the activities related to Output 3.1 of the ISLAND project. Representatives of the Suriname Waste Management foundation (SUWAMA), a local organization in Suriname dealing with waste management issues, were hired as individual consultants by UNITAR SCYCLE for assistance and support.

UNITAR SCYCLE is the global scientific leader in e-waste research and information provision to various stakeholders and the public. SCYCLE's mission is to promote sustainable societies. Its activities focus on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as well as for other ubiquitous goods. SCYCLE leads the global e-waste discussion and advances sustainable e-waste management strategies based on life cycle thinking. Thanks to its scientifically recognized methodology to quantify the e-waste management, which is recognized at the global level, SCYCLE puts its methodology at the service of the project implementation, as further specified below.

As part of **Deliverable 2** of Output 3.1 of the ISLANDS project, this national assessment report provides an overview on the WEEE management situation in the country of **Belize**, including some conclusive remarks and recommendations on next steps to be taken at national level to further improve the management of a challenging waste stream such as the WEEE.

The report is structured as follows:

- first, a [methodological note](#) explains the main data sources used for the analysis and the analytical approach used for both the qualitative and quantitative sections.
- [Chapter 1](#) presents a country overview, including a socio-economic background introduction and an overview on the legislative landscape specific on e-waste or, when e-waste is not covered by national legislation, the relevant policies and legislations which includes indirectly also WEEE.
- [Chapter 2](#) presents the result of the WEEE flows assessment at national level, from 2010 and with projections up to 2030. When information was available, a short paragraph is also investigating the transboundary movements of WEEE.
- [Chapter 3](#) presents the analysis of the information collected through the project survey, distributed among representatives of both the private and the public sector in Belize, giving an initial overview and assessment of the technical and infrastructural capacity for WEEE management at national level.
- [Chapter 4](#) goes more into detail in the economic impact assessment of WEEE management in Belize.
- [Chapter 5](#) presents the main conclusions of the analysis, and some targeted recommendations on possible way forward to improve the WEEE management sector at national level.



Methodological Note

The methodology used for the data collection and analysis for the national assessment reports is mixed, both qualitative and quantitative.

The qualitative part included the following main tools:

- A comprehensive survey, mainly distributed online, targeting the main stakeholders in each project country, including governmental officers/policy makers, EEE producers/importers, recycling companies, WEEE importing and exporting companies, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and other relevant organizations.
- Follow-up semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups, based on predefined guidelines and adapted according to the specific needs, also based on the possible gaps in the data collection through the survey.

The structure of the online survey is also included in [Annex 1](#).

For Belize, 4 respondents from the private sector compiled the survey. However, 2 surveys were completed and 2 were incomplete. For the analysis, the answers of the incomplete surveys were used where applicable.

An in-country mission was also carried out in Belize by representatives of the UNITAR consultancy team from 4th – 7th June 2025 as recommended by the National Working Group (NWG). During the in-country mission, a focus group meeting, bilateral interviews and site visits were carried out as part of the methodology used for the drafting of this national report. During the mission stakeholders from the both the public sector (5) and the private sector (6) were engaged, of which 2 from the private sector had also provided some input in the survey.

In terms of gender balance, in Belize unequal respondents were counted: 8 identified as Male and 5 identified as Female.

The mission plan and an overview of meetings held is included in [Annex 3](#) together with pictures taken during the mission.

In addition to the qualitative approach, quantitative data was collected and analysed. These include data on Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) Put on the Market (POM); WEEE generated, collected and recycled (if available), economic costs and benefits related to WEEE management by national facilities; Customs data on import export of EEE for the years 2012 – 2024. The methodology applied on the quantitative data analysis is further detailed under [paragraph 2.1](#), for what concerns the WEEE flows.

The template of the data gathering structure for the economic impact analysis is presented in [Annex 2](#).

However, it must be noted that, for Belize, no financial information was shared by private stakeholders – therefore the analysis of the economic impact described in [chapter 4](#) is rather based on qualitative information collected through the survey and the Validation Workshop.

The draft national assessment report was shared with stakeholders for review and additional input and was presented to the country's representatives on the 27th of October 2025 during the national validation workshop. A follow up meeting was also held with private sector stakeholders on the 7th of November 2025. All the additional inputs, information to fill in existing gaps and relevant comments have been reflected in the final version of the report.





Chapter 1.

Country Profile

1.1 COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Belize is a Central American country located on the northeastern coast, with its eastern shoreline bordering the Caribbean Sea. Belize is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, with King Charles III as its monarch (represented by a Governor-General). While Belmopan serves as the country's capital, Belize City remains the largest and most populous urban centre. As of 2024, Belize had an estimated population of 417 072. (World Bank, 2024)

Belize



Figure 1. Map of Belize

Map Sources: OCHA 2022, UNCS, ESRI

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Aug 2011.

Table 1. Socio-economic indicators, World Bank

Population	417 072 (2024)
Population growth (annual %)	1.4 (2024)
Human Capital Index (HCI) (scale 0-1)	N.A.
GDP (current US\$)	3.51 billion (2024)
GDP per capita (current US\$)	8 429.7 (2024)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %)	3.3 (2024)
Access to electricity (% of population)	99.6 (2023)
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	72 (2023)

Source: World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/country/belize>

Socio-economic environment

Belize, an upper middle-income country closely tied to the Caribbean, relies significantly on tourism, which contributes 20% to its GDP. However, the sector's heavy reliance on international visitors left it vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing a 14% contraction in GDP (IMF, 2021). Agricultural exports are the second-largest source of foreign exchange, constituting 13% of GDP. As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Belize benefits from market access and trade agreements within the economic union.

As of 2025, Belize's GDP per capita is estimated at USD \$8,650 (IMF, 2025). The GDP saw a cumulative increase of 27.6% between 2021 and 2023, with an additional 8.1% rise in 2024, driven by tourism, trade, and transport. This growth contributed to a substantial decline in the poverty rate to 22% in 2024, down from 36% in 2021 (IMF, 2025). However, the multidimensional poverty rate remains high at 40%, particularly affecting indigenous Maya and Garifuna communities, where rates are twice the national average (UNDP, 2024).

Belize faces significant existential threats from global climate change, including intensified hurricanes and sea level rise (SLR), which endanger 60% of the population living in coastal zones (World Bank Climate Portal, 2023).

In response, the country has embraced a 'blue economy agenda' endorsed by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and allocates 4% of GDP annually to climate adaptation. Through initiatives like the GEF's SIDS program, Belize is at the forefront of nature-based solutions such as coastal resilience, energy efficiency, and sustainable fisheries. However, high public debt, equivalent to 70% of GDP, constrains development efforts.

Despite near-universal primary school enrolment in Belize, access to quality early childhood education remains limited, reaching only 55% of children. Furthermore, secondary school participation drops significantly, with just 63% of girls and 57% of boys continuing their education beyond the primary level (UNICEF, 2025). Healthcare access remains uneven, particularly in rural areas where clinics often lack specialized services. Belize's health sector is experiencing significant transformation through strategic partnerships, most notably the Health Sector Support Programme (HSSP). Funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) since 2018, this initiative is driving critical upgrades to health infrastructure nationwide—enhancing safety, resilience, and service delivery (PAHO, 2024).

Waste management system

In Belize, waste management policies are overseen by the Department of the Environment (DOE), operating under the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management. The Solid Waste Management Authority (SWaMA), established through the Solid Waste Management Authority Act, plays a key role in managing landfills, recycling programs, and public awareness campaigns. Municipal waste collection is managed by local city/town councils.

Despite efforts, waste management and recycling pose ongoing challenges, with a significant portion of waste still ending up in landfills. To address these issues, the government has implemented several initiatives. The Solid Waste Management Project 1 (SWMP), active from 2008 to 2015, aimed to enhance waste management practices, reduce pollution, and bolster Belize's reputation in eco-tourism. The Solid Waste Management Project II active from 2016 to 2025 supported Belize in its efforts to reduce environmental pollution through the improvement of solid waste management practices in emerging tourism destinations in northern and southern Belize.

Specifically, the financing investments to improve solid waste transport, recovery, and final disposal in towns and villages in the Northern (Orange Walk and Corozal) and Southern (Stann Creek and Toledo) Corridors and in Belmopan, and to strengthen SWaMA as the lead agency in the waste management sector.

Recent efforts include a draft National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan prepared in 2015, which included recommendations for the management of hazardous wastes, WEEE, and end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). The Strategy and Action Plan were intended to support the implementation of a National Solid Waste Management Policy, which has been characterized as “the main public policy instrument regarding the management of solid waste (e.g. municipal, industrial, and hazardous types of waste, among others) for Belize”.

Other initiatives are the ongoing Clean Belize Campaign (2021–present), focusing on improving waste collection and enforcing anti-littering measures. Additionally, the Plastic Ban (2022) prohibits single-use plastics and Styrofoam, while SWaMA Modernization initiatives aim to develop new landfills and implement waste-to-energy projects.

Currently, recycling efforts are private owned, small scale and primarily focus on metals and plastics, with other recyclable materials often still ending up in landfills. **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is typically stripped of valuable metals like copper, aluminum, and iron by recyclers, with the remaining components often dumped in landfills.**

Additionally, there was one company (Resource Recovery Recycling) that collected WEEE for recycling during 2017–2018, however it stopped before the covid pandemic. Some of the challenges faced were issues with permits, inconsistency at buyer's end, insufficient amounts of WEEE to interest buyers (requests for 6–8 40-foot containers of WEEE on a weekly basis) and high export costs, rendering it not feasible for the company.

Companies such as Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and American Sugar Refining (ASR) Group Belize Sugar face challenges in properly disposing of their WEEE. Although they store WEEE and attempt to resell salvageable items to recyclers or donate written-off electronics, a significant amount still ends up in landfills over time.

1.2 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Belize does not have any laws or regulations addressing WEEE specifically, as reported in the 'National legislative and institutional capacity assessment report on Belize' developed under the ISLAND Project (2024).

There are however some pieces of legislation that may be of general application:

- ✓ Environmental Protection Act, Chapter 328 & Pollution Regulations: regulates pollution, including hazardous substances that may leak from WEEE (e.g., lead, mercury)
- ✓ Summary Jurisdiction (Littering Offences Violation Act) Chapter 98, Revised Edition 2020: prohibits illegal dumping, which could include WEEE
- ✓ Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste) Regulations 2009: requires proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste, which could apply to WEEE
- ✓ Public Health Act, Chapter 40: addresses public nuisances and health hazards, which could include toxic leaching from e-waste
- ✓ Solid Waste Management Authority Act, Chapter 224: governs general waste management, which could include WEEE.

This legislation provides offences for littering offences and could therefore theoretically cover any instances of disposal of e-waste. Currently the government has done several assessments in terms of legislative review, and the Solid Waste Management Authority also has plans to conduct a waste recycling strategy, to guide the government in the recycling sector.

The table below provides an overview on the country's status of ratification to the main Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

Table 2. Status of Multilateral Environmental Agreements – Belize

Multilateral Environmental Agreement	Entry into force
Basel Convention	21/08/1997
Ban Amendment	2019 ¹
Rotterdam Convention	19/07/2005
Stockholm Convention	25/04/2010
Minamata Convention	16/08/2017

Source: www.brsmeas.org

The lack of legislation and policies is accompanied by a weak enforcement system of the laws that do exist and support waste management². There is an environmental tax of 3%, however during the focus group meeting it was stated that the collected tax is not necessarily used for waste management purposes and that this cannot be guaranteed.



¹ <https://ers.basel.int/ERS-Extended/FeedbackServer/fsadmin.aspx?fscontrol=respondentReport&surveyid=86&voterid=62467&readonly=1&nomenu=1>

² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326020564_WASTE_MANAGEMENT_SYSTEM_IN_BELIZE_IS_ONE_OF_THE_WORST_OF_THE_REGION



Chapter 2.

WEEE Flows Assessment: A Country Perspective

2.1 METHODOLOGY

Due to the wide variety of EEE products available in the market, it is essential to categorize them in groups that reflect their key characteristics. The United Nations University KEYS (UNU-KEYS) and the categories in the EU WEEE Directive can be used to classify EEE products, as explained below:

- The UNU-KEYS are a product categorisation comprised of 54 categories developed by UNU³. The UNU-KEYS are constructed in such a way that product groups share comparable average weights, material compositions, end of-life characteristics, and hazardous profile and lifetime distributions. The UNU-KEYS encompass all possible EEE (more than 900 products), and their classifications can be linked to the EU categories.
- The EU WEEE Directive currently covers 6 categories, as listed in Annex III of the WEEE-Directive 2012/19/EC⁴, entered into force in 2018, and before there were 10 categories that are linked to the UNU-KEYS classification system. The data in this study is presented according to the WEEE Directive's 10 categories for harmonization purposes. The 10 e-waste Categories can be found in Table 3.

Table 3. E-waste 10 Categories

E-waste category	Description
CAT. 1	Large household appliances
CAT. 2	Small household appliances
CAT. 3	IT and telecommunications equipment
CAT. 4	Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
CAT. 5	Lighting equipment
CAT. 6	Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
CAT. 7	Toys, leisure and sports equipment
CAT. 8	Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)
CAT. 9	Monitoring and control instruments
CAT. 10	Automatic dispensers

Understanding the quantities, characteristics and pathways of e-waste - along with collecting accurate and up-to-date data - provides a solid foundation for monitoring e-waste generation and management. The measurement framework, developed by UNITAR-SCYCLE and detailed in the E-waste Statistics Guidelines⁵, follows a mass balance approach over the EEE's entire life cycle. The methodology covers production, trade, placing on the market, e-waste generation, e-waste management, and other e-waste related activities, as represented in Figure 2. It covers any product supplied to the national market for consumption that is used by households, businesses, or public authorities.

³ http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6477/RZ_EWaste_Guidelines_LoRes.pdf

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/19/oj/eng>

⁵ http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6477/RZ_EWaste_Guidelines_LoRes.pdf

The methodology follows four steps:

1. The EEE put on the market (POM) is calculated using the apparent consumption method, as the sum of the domestic production and imports of EEE minus the EEE exported for a specific year. The data source used in this calculation are the Comtrade trade statistics⁶ and national statistics offices.

$$POM(t) = \text{Domestic production } (t) + \text{Imports } (t) - \text{Exports } (t)$$

2. After the EEE is placed on the market, it remains in use until the product is discarded – this period is referred as the product's lifetime. A product's lifetime profile indicates the obsolescence rate per year following its sale. The total amount of equipment in households, businesses, and the public sector is referred to as the stock.
3. After a certain lifetime, the product is disposed and it becomes waste, which is referred as the e-waste generated, prior to collection. The quantity of e-waste generated is calculated from the product's POM time-series, taking into account their respective rates of obsolescence in the evaluation year.
4. The e-waste follows different flows, including the formal and compliant collection. Data on the e-waste collection is requested to countries and provided by the NSOs.

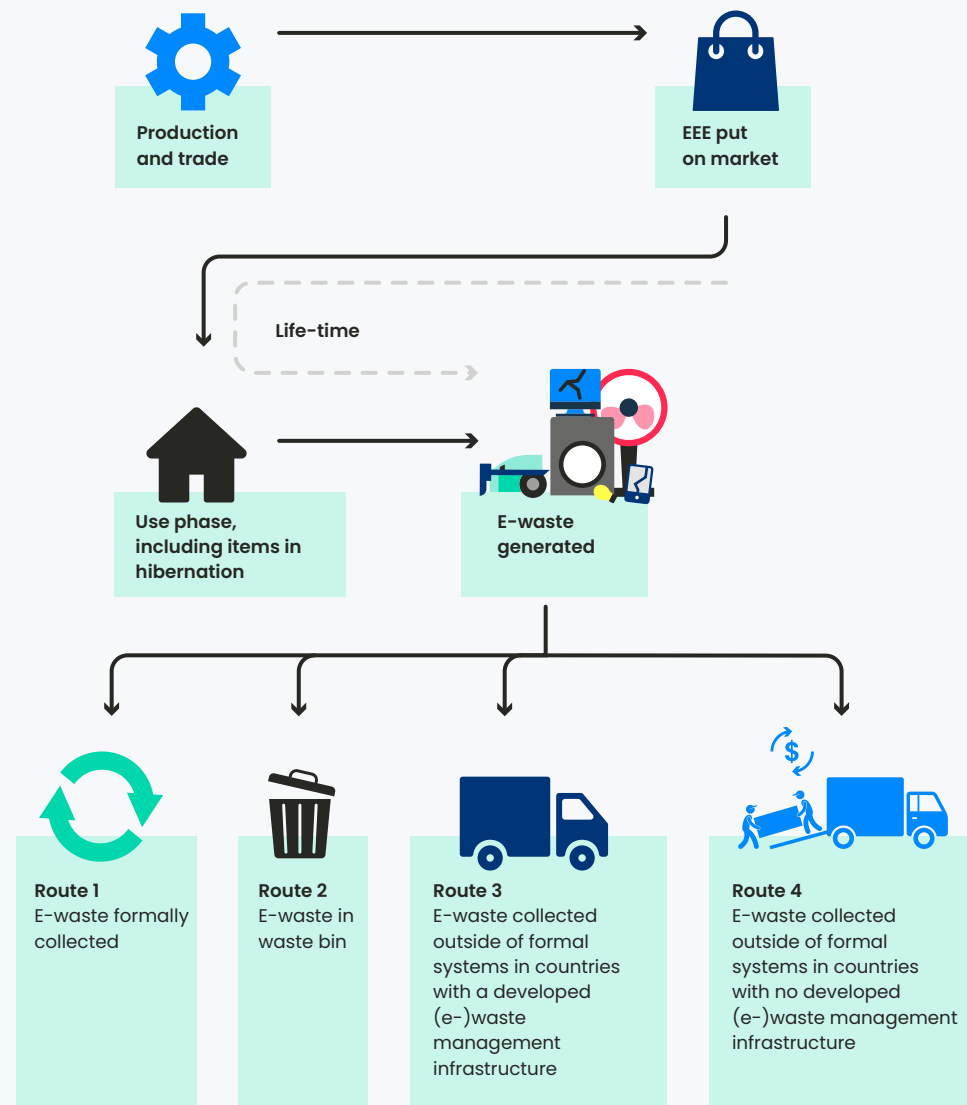


Figure 2. E-waste Statistics Framework

⁶ <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>

Customs authorities in the country, in the framework of the current E-waste Management consultancy, have provided official data on import and export of EEE by Harmonized System codes (HS) and weight in Belize, from 2012 to 2024. These data have been inserted by UNITAR SCYCLE in its WEEE calculation tool⁷, to obtain updated data on the following indicators, as illustrated in the following section:

- EEE Put on the Market
- WEEE Generated

However, no official data on e-waste collected or recycled has been shared by authorities in Belize.

2.2 WEEE FLOWS AND OUTLOOK, FROM 2010 TO 2030

This paragraph describes the flows of EEE POM and e-waste generated in Belize, from 2010 to 2030.

From 2012 to 2024, trade data were provided by the Belize Customs Office, which were used to calculate the EEE POM and e-waste generated for the same years. For the years 2010 and 2011, POM data is based on the historical country's data from the UN Comtrade database, estimated with the apparent consumption methodology. Data from 2025 to 2030 was scaled using an adjustment factor that bridges the gaps between the original estimates and the figures provided from the country, reflecting the higher values observed in the data provided by the country with respect to the original estimates. Figure 3 and Figure 4 represent a time series from 2010 to 2030 of the EEE POM and the e-waste generated in Belize, respectively.

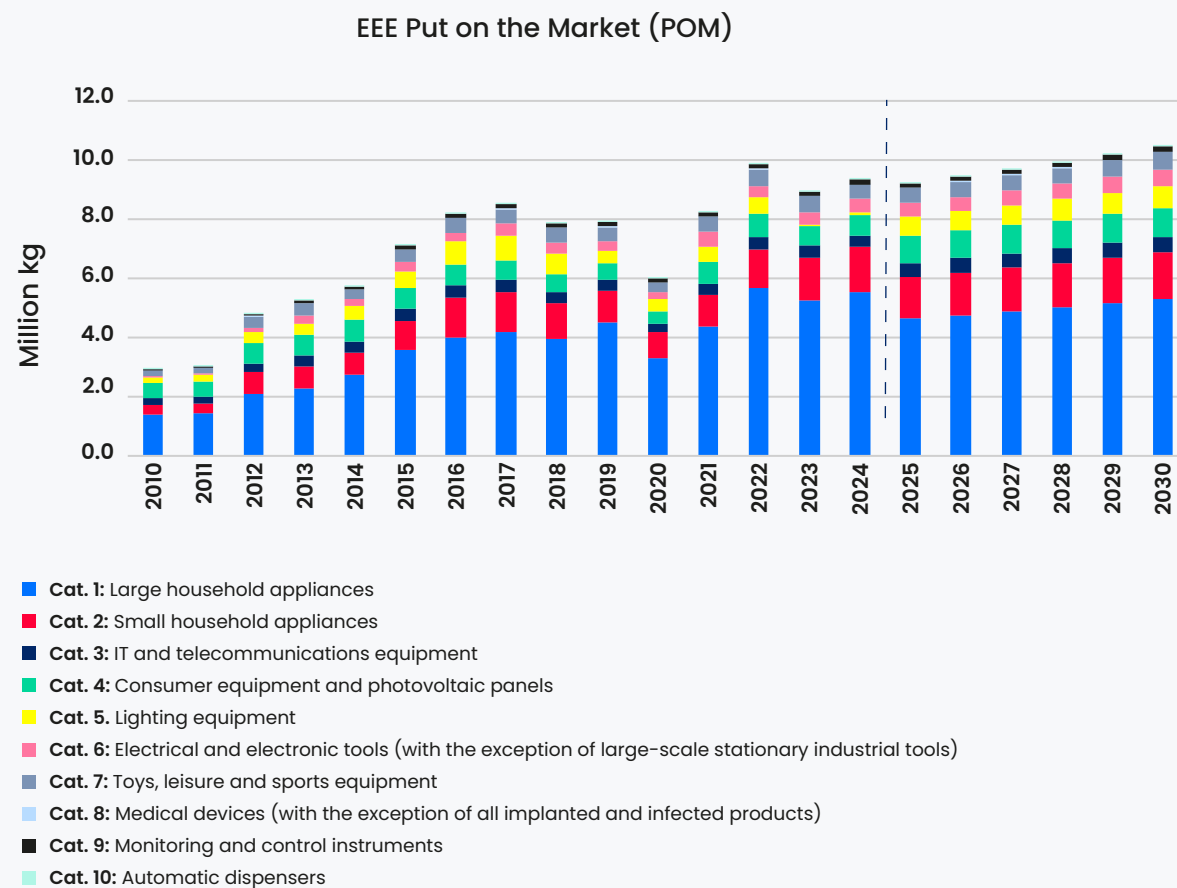


Figure 3. EEE POM in Belize, 2010-2030

⁷ Tool developed by UNITAR SCYCLE to calculate the amount of EEE POM and e-waste based on the country's production, exports, and imports.

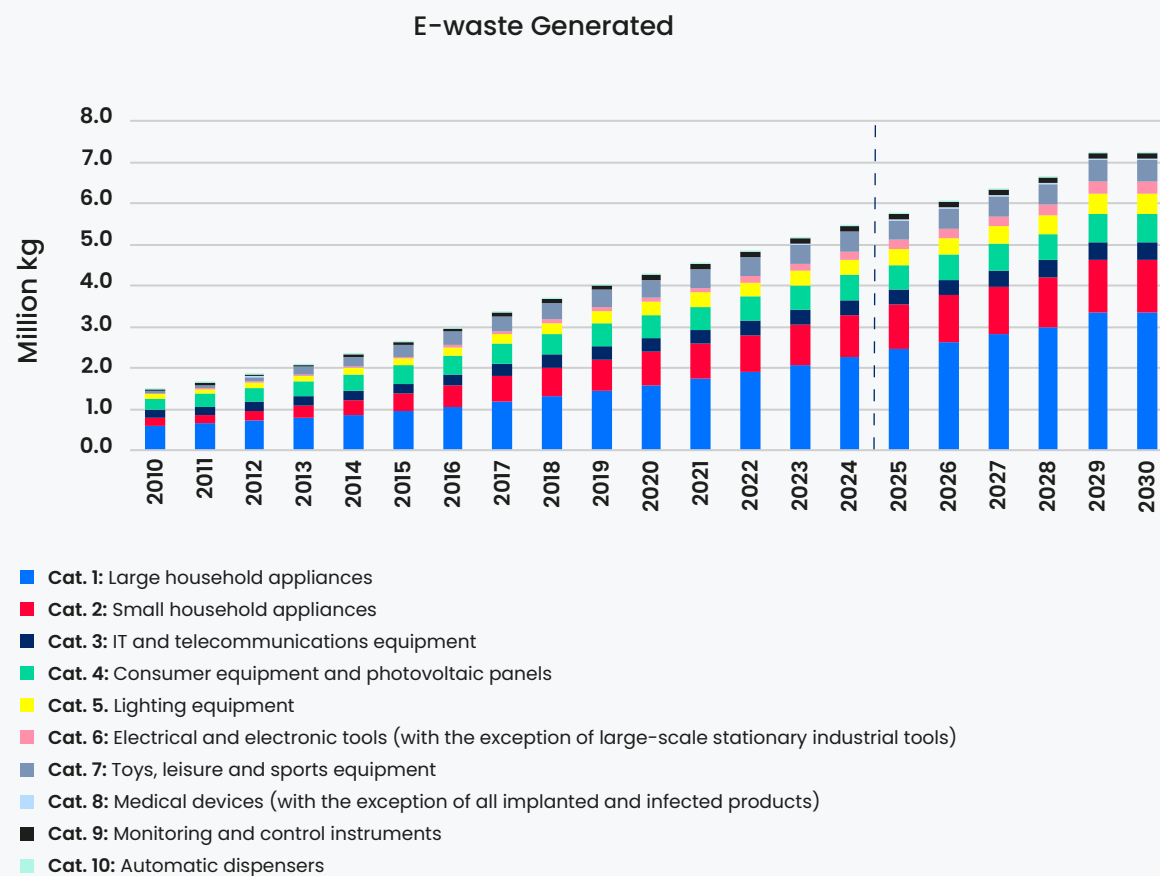


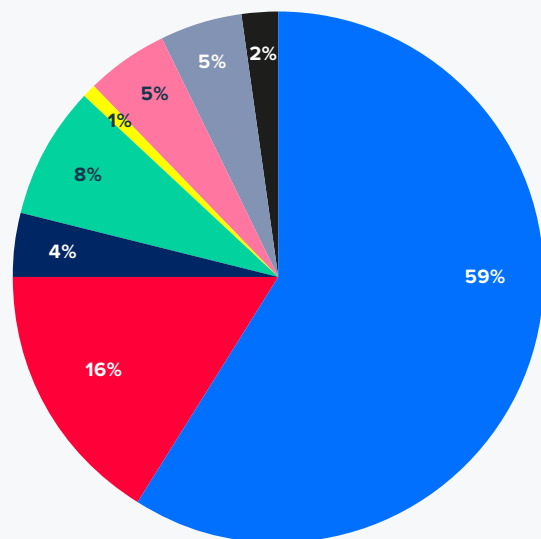
Figure 4. E-waste Generated in Belize, 2010–2030

EEE POM and e-waste data in Belize show that in the country, the amount of EEE POM yearly has more than tripled during the last years, from 2.93 million kg in 2010 to 9.32 million kg in 2024, and 10.43 million kg are projected to be put on the market in 2030. During the same period, **the amount of e-waste generated has increased from 1.50 million kg in 2010 to 5.45 million kg in 2024, and it is projected to increase up to 7.23 million kg in 2030.**



In 2024, as it can be seen in Figure 5, the largest contributors to the POM in the country were Category 1 (59%), Category 2 (16%), and Category 4 (8%). When it comes to e-waste generated, as seen in Figure 6, Category 1 (42%), Category 2 (19%), and Category 4 (11%) are also the largest contributors.

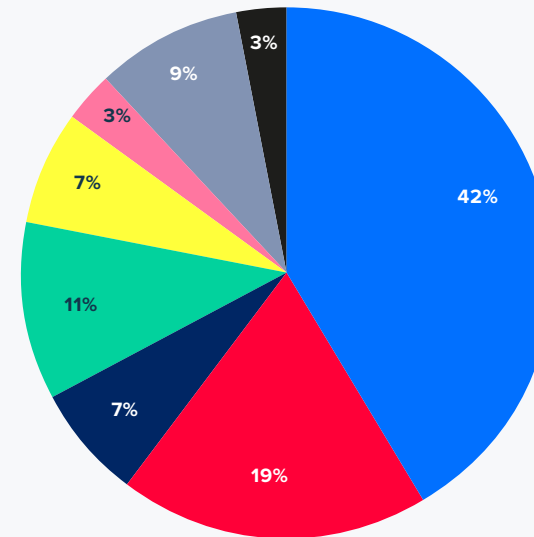
EEE POM per Category in 2024



- **Cat. 1:** Large household appliances
- **Cat. 2:** Small household appliances
- **Cat. 3:** IT and telecommunications equipment
- **Cat. 4:** Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- **Cat. 5:** Lighting equipment
- **Cat. 6:** Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- **Cat. 7:** Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- **Cat. 8:** Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- **Cat. 9:** Monitoring and control instruments
- **Cat. 10:** Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 5. EEE POM per category in Belize, 2024

E-waste Generated in 2024



- **Cat. 1:** Large household appliances
- **Cat. 2:** Small household appliances
- **Cat. 3:** IT and telecommunications equipment
- **Cat. 4:** Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
- **Cat. 5:** Lighting equipment
- **Cat. 6:** Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
- **Cat. 7:** Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- **Cat. 8:** Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products) 0%
- **Cat. 9:** Monitoring and control instruments
- **Cat. 10:** Automatic dispensers 0%

Figure 6. E-waste Generated per category in Belize, 2024

Globally, Belize is not a high contributor to the e-waste generated, as the largest contributions come from more populated countries. However, in terms of e-waste generated per capita, according to the Global E-waste Monitor 2024 (Baldé et al. 2024) **Belize generated 7.1 kg/inhabitant⁹ in 2022⁹, ranking 107th worldwide** – comparable to countries like Bolivia, Fiji, and Turkmenistan. Within the Caribbean region, the e-waste generation per capita ranges from 1.1 kg/inhabitant to 20.7 kg/inhabitant, placing Belize in the low range of e-waste generation per capita.

The largest contributor to the EEE POM in terms of mass are large household appliances (Category 1), which account for 5.53 million kg of the POM in 2024 (59% of the total) due to the high average weight of the products included in this category (e.g., fridges, washing machines, dishwashers). The amount of EEE included in Category 1 put on the market tripled from 2010 to, and it is expected to stay stable until 2030. **Unsurprisingly, Category 1 equipment is also the largest contributor to the e-waste generation, with 2.28 million kg of e-waste generated in 2024 (accounting for 42% of the total).** This figure has almost tripled since 2010, and it is expected to continue rising in the coming years, at a similar rate as the previous years.

Small household appliances (Category 2) is the second largest contributor to both the EEE POM with 1.53 million kg in 2024 (16% of the total) and e-waste generated with 1.02 million kg in 2024 (19% of the total). The EEE POM has more than tripled from 2010 to 2024, and it is forecasted to increase slightly until 2030. This increase of EEE POM can be attributed to the following according to stakeholders:

1. Better data collection: Belize has significantly improved its import tracking system, resulting in enhanced data accuracy.
2. Improved socioeconomic factors: People have more spending capacity, and it's easier to order goods from abroad, leading to a replace instead of repair habit and therefore more EEE products coming into the country.
3. Shorter product life: Many products today don't last as long, so they become waste much faster.

When it comes to the e-waste generated, the yearly amount has also increased drastically from 2010 to 2024, and it is projected to continue growing steadily after 2024.

Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels (Category 4) put on the market has been steadily increasing from 2010 to 2024, when 0.71 million kg were put on the market (8% of the total), and it is expected to continue doing so until 2030. Category 4 contributed to 0.60 million kg of e-waste generated in 2024, 11% of the total. The amount of e-waste generated has been steadily increasing since 2010, and it is forecasted to follow the same trend in the following years up to 2030.

In 2024, 0.46 and 0.45 million kg of electrical and electronic tools (Category 6) and toys, leisure and sports equipment (Category 7) were put on the market, respectively, which corresponds to 5% of the total for each category. The amount of Category 6 equipment sold per year has increased substantially since 2010, while Category 7 equipment has increased steadily during the years, and both are projected to remain stable up to 2030. Regarding the e-waste generated, 0.18 million kg (3% of the total) was generated in 2024 from Category 6, and 0.48 million kg (9% of the total) of Category 7 equipment. These values have increased considerably since 2010 and are forecasted to continue growing.

IT and telecommunications equipment (Category 3) accounts for 0.37 million kg of EEE POM in 2024, a 4% of the total. The amount of Category 3 equipment put on the market has increased steadily during the years, and it is forecasted to increase slightly until 2030. E-waste generated from Category 3, accounting for 7% of the total in 2024 (0.36 million kg), it has been steadily increasing over the years, and it is forecasted continue this trend until 2030.

Lighting equipment (Category 5), medical devices (Category 8), monitoring and control instruments (Category 9) and automatic dispensers (Category 10) account together for 3% of the EEE POM in 2024 (0.07, 0.02, 0.17, and 0.01 million kg, respectively) and the 10% of the e-waste generated that year (0.38, 0.01, 0.14 and 0.001 million kg, respectively). The amount of equipment put on the market and generated as e-waste has not undertaken remarkable changes during the time period presented.

Regarding the e-waste management, **there is no quantitative data on the e-waste being formally collected and recycled in Belize currently**, and the qualitative information that has been compiled is going to be presented in the next chapters.

⁹ According to the IUS Monitor data from 2022 calculated using the apparent consumption method and published in 2024. The study is conducted every two to three years and reflects UNITARs original estimates.
⁹ 2022 data is used for comparison, as global values originate from the E-waste Monitor 2024, which is based on 2022 figures.

2.3 TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF WEEE

WEEE exports are legitimate, in principle. WEEE can be exported for recycling purposes, and exporters of WEEE need to ensure that it will be recovered or recycled safely in the receiving country. In some cases, transboundary movements (TBM) of WEEE or its components are necessary to recover high-value materials (the transportation of waste printed circuit boards to specialised recycling facilities of WEEE from regions where no WEEE management systems exist). Furthermore, transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes, including WEEE, can pose significant challenges and have an adverse impact on the environment and on human health when not managed properly in countries lacking adequate infrastructure and capacity for managing WEEE in an environmentally sound manner. Therefore, it is important to put in place rules and procedures for distinguishing between illegal and legal transboundary movements (Baldé et al. 2024).

The main international instrument regulating the transboundary movements of waste, including WEEE, is the Basel Convention, which entered into force in Belize in 1997.

In June 2022, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, amendments to Annexes II, VIII, and IX of the Convention were adopted, mainly aimed at increasing the control of transboundary movements of WEEE and making all electronic and electrical waste, including non-hazardous waste, subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.¹⁰ As mentioned, in some cases, WEEE can be exported to other countries, but they must be subject to the PIC procedure – which forms the heart of the Basel Convention control system and is based on four key stages: 1) notification, 2) consent and issuance of movement document, 3) transboundary movement, and 4) confirmation of disposal. (D'Angelo et al. 2025)

The assessment performed in this project, which is based on very limited data and information available, only shows limited capacity for export of e-waste in Belize, mainly targeting foreign countries with high capacity for e-waste treatment (USA and China). No specific flows at intra-regional level in the Caribbeans or within Central America emerged.

One respondent to the survey mentioned that Belize exports WEEE for treatment purposes to other countries in the Caribbean region but did not specify to which countries.

Also, Belize did not report any export or import of hazardous waste, including WEEE, to the Basel Convention Secretariat for the years 2016–2023.

Overall, from the information available, **there is no evidence of import or export of WEEE to or from Belize, other than regionally**, if the information received is confirmed.

¹⁰ <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/Ewaste/EwasteAmendments/Overview/tabid/9266/Default.aspx>



Chapter 3.

Technical and Infra-structural Capacity for WEEE Management

As previously highlighted, chapter 3 analyses the survey responses, focus group discussions, and insights gathered through bilateral interviews and onsite visits conducted by the consultancy team during their in-country visit in May–June 2025.

The objective is to outline the current situation in the country regarding the overall infrastructural capacity and the status of other conditions (e.g. level of public awareness, public and private support and funding, etc.) necessary to ensure the establishment and development of a durable and sustainable WEEE management system in Belize.

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

According to stakeholders (93%), the operational bodies in Belize have **very little adequate** resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE in the country. Their assessment of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers, and waste managers) varied between **‘somewhat effective’** (indicating regular communication but room for improvement) and **‘ineffective’** (reflecting minimal coordination, leading to inefficiencies and unclear communication channels).

All stakeholders, but one, reported that there were **no** voluntary initiatives or measures put in place by the industry to contribute to WEEE management. One stakeholder from the private sector mentioned that a local company used to collect WEEE in Ladyville and export the dismantled parts, however this operation has stopped. Reasons reported for stopping this operation included **inconsistencies at buyers end** and **insufficient amounts of WEEE to interest buyers**, rendering it not feasible for small companies.

FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

In Belize, the **electronics** market is defined by the majority of stakeholders (79%) as **growing**, but still in development, with established players, increasing local production, and expanding market potential, but with room for growth. On the other hand, some stakeholders considered the market as **Emerging**, with limited local production, reliance on imports, and underdeveloped supply chains.

The financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in the country include:

- Government funding: taxes, municipal budgets and public funds
- Waste Collection Fees: Households and businesses pay for waste services
- Landfill tipping fees: charges for waste disposal at landfills
- Private sector contributions: voluntary recycling programs by businesses

In addition, the following other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support the WEEE management:

EPR SCHEMES

International aid and grants: Funding from NGOs and or global organizations

Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes

Increase in Environmental taxes from 3% to higher (15% suggested)

COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There is no official WEEE collection system in place in Belize. However, metal recyclers sometimes collect and dismantle WEEE for metals or buy already dismantled metals from the informal sector. These recyclers are also inspected by the Department of Environment (DOE), however not as WEEE recyclers, but as metal recyclers. According to stakeholders, these recyclers only partially implement Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP), meet environmental standards to a limited extent, and are partially equipped with proper tools and safety equipment. It is also unknown whether personnel at these facilities are trained.

Belize has one regional sanitary landfill and 11 transfer stations throughout the country. One **transfer station at Mile 24**, is designated for bulky waste, like fridges, washing machines etc. Parts of the e-waste would be recovered by residents, such as metals (aluminium, copper, other metals) and other valuable parts and often the 'carcass' is left, meaning most is recovered. Whatever is left, gets crushed and buried.

One private sector company selling electric appliances stated that they accept some e-waste for repair and recovery. However, as there are no guidelines/criteria on how to dispose of e-waste, they store (hoard) it.

During site visits, private sector companies expressed concerns about WEEE management challenges. Although they have established internal policies for proper WEEE storage and handling, they face significant limitations when it comes to recycling and disposal, leaving them with no viable options beyond their own facilities. Some WEEE containing metals are sold locally and some items such as spent laptops are donated to schools when possible. Beyond this, all WEEE from these companies is disposed of at the landfill.

The following elements have been ranked, from the most to the least relevant, as needed to scale up the existing facilities for WEEE dismantling and treatment:

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling / treatment facilities? – Belize

MOST
LEAST

1. Technical expertise for efficient management of other WEEE categories
2. Better waste sorting and pre-processing system
3. Training and development of skilled workers
4. Investment in advanced recycling technologies
5. Expansion of facility and capacity and land availability
6. Increased access to specialized equipment for dismantling
7. Other

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

At present, in Belize **there is nothing in place** to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling. No awareness or education programs are in place at country level.

INFORMAL SECTOR

In terms of the involvement of the informal sector (individual waste collectors/pickers) in the WEEE management, it was reported that it is mainly active in the **collection, sorting and dismantling** of WEEE for metals, batteries and other parts that are usable. These metals are as previously mentioned sold back to metal recyclers, with the remaining parts going to the landfill. The size of this informal sector, in the WEEE management is unknown.

With regards to integrating the informal system into a formal one, Belize has established a Belize Recycle and Waste Management Association, which is bringing different recyclers together, including those from the informal sector. The Solid Waste Management Projects both one and two also provided training to this sector with attempts to make cooperatives.

READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, particularly for take-back, recycling, and final disposal. In the context of electronic waste (e-waste), EPR shifts the financial and operational responsibility for collection, recycling, and safe disposal from governments and consumers to manufacturers. This encourages producers to design more sustainable, durable, and recyclable electronics.

This approach is increasingly adopted worldwide, including in developing countries. As an example, in India, the E-Waste (Management) Rules mandate that producers of electronic goods must collect and channel e-waste to authorized recyclers through EPR plans approved by the Central Pollution Control Board. This policy has led to the formalization of parts of the informal recycling sector and improved compliance with environmental standards (OECD 2024).

At present, there are **no reported good practices** at country level in Belize or outside related to **EPR scheme**, on **e-waste**. There is however a Belize Bottle Bill which was passed in 2009, officially the Returnable Containers Act¹¹, requires a deposit on beverage containers to be paid at the point of sale and refunded when the consumer returns the empty container for recycling.

One stakeholder from the private sector also stated that Samsung takes back some phones and phone parts, however only from licensed distributors.

According to stakeholders, the following public and private actors in Belize should participate in implementing an EPR scheme. The list below ranks these actors in order of priority, as indicated by stakeholder feedback.

Public and private actors to be involved for the implementation of EPR scheme – Belize

MOST
LEAST

1. Government agencies
2. Private sector/ producers
3. PROs
4. Recycling facilities/ industry experts
5. Consumers
6. NGOs / CSOs
7. Other



¹¹ https://doe.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Returnable-Containers_Act.pdf

Stakeholders also recommended involving the tourism and health sectors. The tourism industry is considered a significant generator of WEEE, while the health sector's technical expertise is essential for managing hazardous components. In addition, a pilot EPR project in the San Pedro community was proposed, given its status as a high-tourism area where hotels and related businesses frequently replace electronic equipment to meet visitor expectations. The pilot should be grounded in a clear business model and designed to be financially viable, ideally supported through a public-private partnership (PPP).

Stakeholders further advised that, under an EPR scheme, a deposit could be applied at the point of import. This deposit would later be transferred to an authorized recycler once the product reaches its end of life, thereby ensuring that recycling is financially supported from the outset. Implementing such a system would require appropriate policy instruments, similar to those used in bottle deposit legislation. To address cost challenges, a shared-cost approach could be explored, where producers and willing consumers both contribute to covering the expenses associated with the responsible treatment and recycling of WEEE.

The following challenges in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management in the Belize have been ranked, from the most to the least important:

Main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management sector - Belize

- 
1. **Legal and regulatory** - lack of legislation or enforcement/unclear responsibilities
 2. **Financial and economic** - high implementation costs/insufficient funding mechanisms
 3. **Technical and infrastructure** - Limited recycling facilities/collection systems/technologies for WEEE treatment
 4. **Stakeholders cooperation** - Lack of coordination: government, businesses, informal sector
 5. **Public awareness and participation** - Low consumers engagement or awareness
 6. **Other:** political will

As legal and regulatory challenges seem to be the most impactful in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management in the country, according to the stakeholders, the elements most needed in the legal framework, in Belize, to effectively support the EPR implementation are the ones below, ranked from the most to the least important.

Elements most needed in the legal framework to effectively support the EPR implementation - Belize

- 
1. Clear definition of producer's responsibilities
 2. Funding and financial mechanisms
 3. Consumer engagement and awareness
 4. Improved collection and recycling systems
 5. Enforcement mechanisms
 6. Transparency and reporting requirements
 7. Capacity building

A clear definition of EPR, funding and financial mechanisms together with consumer engagement and improved collection and recycling systems are ranked as most important elements to support an EPR implementation at national level.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Stakeholders reported that their WEEE is disposed of in a non-environmentally sound manner (including mixed with other types of waste) at for e.g. the Orange Walk Dump Site or other locations with piles of WEEE.

In terms of social impact, there is **no evidence of possible jobs creation** in the WEEE sector and/or in the green sector for the upcoming years; there is also **no formal evidence of involvement of vulnerable sectors**, including women or children, in the informal sector.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

The following current limitations of the WEEE management system have been ranked, from the most to the least important:

What are the current limitations of the WEEE management systems – Belize

- 
1. Lack of political commitment
 2. Gaps in infrastructure
 3. Lack of financing
 4. Lack of consumers' interest and commitment to proper dispose of WEEE
 5. Gaps in legislation
 6. Illegal exports
 7. Competition from the informal sector
 8. Lack of effective enforcement
 9. Political and economic stability
 10. Other

REGIONAL COOPERATION

In terms of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation at regional level for WEEE management, at the moment, this was reported as Moderate, with some cooperation existing, but limited in scope or effectiveness by the majority of stakeholders. Some private sector stakeholders reported this as minimal, with few cross-border initiatives, with occasional ad-hoc cooperation or even non-existent, with no formal cooperation or coordination between countries.

No legal or practical initiatives are in place at regional level related to WEEE management.

Stakeholders also reported that a regional approach would facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme in the following ways:

1. It would reduce implementation costs: shared infrastructure and systems can help reduce the financial burden on individual countries.
2. It would create harmonized regulations: a regional approach can ensure consistency in EPR requirements across borders, making compliance easier for producers and stakeholders.
3. It would enhance cross-border cooperation: collaboration between countries can improve recycling and waste management systems, benefiting the region as a whole.



Chapter 4. Economic Impact of WEEE Management Facilities at National Level

In consideration of the lack of precise financial data related to WEEE management and infrastructure (see also the Methodological note), the present paragraph provides an overview of elements offering insights on the economic impact of such activities at national level, mainly based on the qualitative information gathered.

The economic assessment of WEEE management in Belize reveals the absence of a formal system, with no established infrastructure or operational framework. Currently, WEEE collection and partial material recovery, primarily metals, are solely managed by the informal sector.

COLLECTION AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

While some dismantling and recycling facilities exist in Belize, their **scale and technical capacity are limited**. Processing is performed manually with partial compliance to best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP). Workers generally have limited specialized training, and facilities are only partially equipped with appropriate tools and safety equipment.

Belize does not have advanced pre-treatment infrastructure or category-specific treatment lines. WEEE is typically dismantled without detailed separation protocols, and material recovery is basic. Some dismantled components are exported to other countries in the region for further processing, although precise destinations and volumes are not consistently documented.

The previously mentioned company 'Resource Recovery Recycling', that collected WEEE for recycling in the past, was active around 2017–2018. Their plan was to establish a processing facility in Belize, and they had already secured an investor to build it. The concept was to centralize operations by importing smaller quantities of e-waste from neighbouring countries like the United States and Mexico. This was a practical solution for partners who found transportation costs too high.

The project was ultimately halted due to permitting issues with the Department of the Environment (DOE), delays from the COVID-19 pandemic and insufficient amounts of WEEE. Buyers required at least 6–8 40-foot containers of WEEE on a weekly basis, a requirement the company could not meet given the amount of WEEE generated in Belize.

The primary collection method was through organized collection fairs. A public drop-off location with large boxes would be announced where individuals could dispose of their electronics. The company also operated on an on-call basis. As they became known for e-waste collection, schools and businesses would contact

them directly to schedule a pick-up. A key benefit of this model was that we acquired the equipment at no cost, which significantly offset the collection expenses.

During its operations, the company stripped down WEEE into all components, from the screws to any electronic part, plastics and metals. While plastics and electronic parts were shipped to China, the metals were sold locally. Within its short operational time, the company shipped one 40-foot container every six months, containing electronic parts and plastics at a 50–50% ratio, however the plastics were sold at a lower rate because of their value. With regards to selling prices, these fluctuated.

With regards to personnel, the company had 5 personnel who would strip down the e-waste. The salaries were average 1000 Belizean dollars per person a week, adding up to about 4000 Belizean dollars per person a month (equivalent to 2000 US dollars per person per month). Monthly personnel costs would add up to 10 000 USD.

The informal sector participates in collection, sorting, dismantling, and sometimes basic treatment and as mentioned previously, efforts are being made to integrate them into formal systems via the Belize Recycle and Waste Management Association. Export flows exist but are small, irregular, and not systematically monitored.

The informal sector's WEEE collection practices lack transparency regarding the types of waste targeted for metal and material recovery. Additionally, no information was shared on the costs associated with collection or operational expenses, such as

dismantling per metric ton of WEEE, as of the latest data. It is however worth noting that all collection and operational activities related to WEEE are private sector funded.

TREATMENT AND MATERIAL RECOVERY

As mentioned in the previous section, especially **metals are currently recovered from WEEE by the informal sector** and the average sale price of these metal fractions have not been communicated. In addition, no confirmed data is available on the quantities of material currently recovered or sold. It was however stated that recovered metals are sold locally to metal recyclers and that the remaining fractions go to the landfill.

OPERATIONAL COSTS AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

As of now, the current net treatment cost per tonne of WEEE cannot be determined due to the absence of data. **WEEE recovery holds significant economic potential**, especially considering the predicted increase of WEEE and previously mentioned socioeconomic factors. Belize must however build this market from the ground up, as no formal collection, treatment or other infrastructure currently exists.

Realizing this opportunity will require implementing a complete WEEE management system, including policy frameworks, operational standards, and market mechanisms, as the country is effectively starting from zero.



Chapter 5.

Conclusions and Way Forward

CONCLUSIONS

- The amount of yearly EEE at country level has more than tripled from 2010 (2.93 million kg) to 2024 (9.32 million kg); the amount of e-waste generated followed a similar trend, increasing from 1.50 million kg in 2010 to 5.45 million kg in 2024, and it is projected to increase up to 7.23 million kg in 2030.
- The largest categories contributing to EEE POM were Category 1 (large household appliances), Category 2 (small household appliances) and Category 4 (consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels), which are subsequently also the largest contributors to WEEE generated. Category 1 only, represents 59% of the national EEE POM and 42% of the e-waste generated.
- From 2012 to 2024, trade data were provided by the Belize Customs Office, which were used to calculate the national EEE POM and WEEE generated for the same years. For the years 2010 and 2011, POM data is based on the historical country's data from the Comtrade database, estimated with the apparent consumption methodology. Data from 2025-2030 was scaled using an adjustment factor to reflect the higher values observed in the country values with respect to the previous estimates performed based on the apparent consumption methodology values (which were lower).
- As there is no specific WEEE legislation, there are no targeted e-waste strategies. Belize also lacks a national framework tailored to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in this sector.
- No official statistics were made available on WEEE collected and recycled.
- Currently, Belize lacks any formal WEEE management system. There are no established collection schemes, dismantling/recycling operations, public awareness campaigns, or regulatory frameworks to address WEEE. All activities taking place to recover metals from WEEE are informal (private sector) driven.
- Due to a lack of transparency by the informal sector it is difficult to estimate amounts of WEEE collected and metals recovered and the costs for these operations.
- Operational bodies in Belize have very little adequate resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE.
- Other challenges for adequate WEEE management are currently a lack of political commitment, gaps in infrastructure and lack of financing.
- An EPR scheme is supported by the stakeholders and to this end the following will need to be in place in the legal framework to support it amongst others: clear definition of EPR, funding and financial mechanisms, consumer engagement and awareness and improved collection and recycling systems.
- The main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE are related to legal and regulatory issues, financial and economic constraints and low consumers engagement or awareness.
- A regional approach to EPR is supported by stakeholders, and is anticipated to reduce implementation costs, creating harmonised regulations and improving cross-border cooperation.
- Dismantling and recycling facilities in Belize are reported to have limited technical capacity. Processing is performed manually with partial compliance to best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).
- No legal or practical initiatives are in place at regional level related to WEEE management.
- While the sector remains nascent, the presence of some dismantling facilities, partial export channels, and growing private-sector interest suggest that with coordinated investment, policy reform, and regional cooperation, Belize could significantly expand the circular and financial benefits of WEEE management.

WAY FORWARD

Considering the current situation with regard to WEEE management in Belize, summarized above in the conclusions, the following items are indicated as possible recommendations and way forward to the relevant stakeholders, to improve the current system:

- Establish a coordinated effort in the waste management at national level, including on WEEE management. Given San Pedro's status as a high-traffic tourist destination and significant WEEE producer, it has been recommended to prioritize it for the initial pilot project. The pilot can serve for evidence-based policy making, which can be adopted and implemented nationwide.
- Create a national strategy to guide the government in pragmatic recycling and EPR strategies. These strategies should leverage EPR to attract private investment, foster public-private partnerships (PPPs), and deploy financial instruments that accelerate a circular economy. A core pillar of this strategy must be the establishment of source separation programs, supported by clear guidelines on material types, collection logistics (collection points/bins), public awareness/education and market access for recovered materials.
- Establish dedicated WEEE management regulation with clear enforcement mechanisms, and support relevant authorities in the following enforcement phases:
 - Inspection and monitoring: for compliance with environmental, health and safety regulations and reporting requirements.
 - Implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework that engages all stakeholders across the value chain. A shared-cost model, where producers and consumers cover the cost of proper WEEE disposal.
- Develop a legal instrument requiring WEEE recovery entities to report information to authorities
- Support a public private partnership approach towards WEEE management and/or create a supportive environment for the private sector e.g. tax exemptions
- Establish a system for regular monitoring of WEEE flows through dedicated data collection and analysis
 - The analysis showed that by applying SCYCLE methodology with the use of official data provided by national authorities (e.g. Customs office), estimates on EEE POM and WEEE generated are rather more accurate
 - Include in the monitoring system, measures to quantify the WEEE collected and recycled at national level (including costs of fractions, shipments costs etc.)
- More accurate estimates of WEEE generated and relevant future projections could help in establishing an efficient system for WEEE management what would take in consideration the current situation but also the expected needs
- Provide education and guidance. Providing information and support to help the community understand and comply with the legislation
- Support the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanisms, to exchange information and good practices on WEEE collection and recycling – leveraging on countries with more advanced infrastructure and knowledge. It is also important to consider market needs for different types of waste products as well as opportunities for resource recovery and regional processing capacity.



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Annex 1. Online Survey

1. THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO GATHER QUALITATIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CURRENT WEEE MANAGEMENT SITUATION IN THE SURVEYED COUNTRIES.

The survey covers the following aspects: legislative and regulatory framework; institutional and organizational structure; financial mechanisms; collection, recycling and disposal infrastructure; data and monitoring; public awareness and participation; informal sector; readiness towards EPR system; environmental and social impacts; transboundary movements; challenges and barriers; regional cooperation.

Countries in scope: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, The Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Target audience: main actors involved in the WEEE management and in the possible establishment of a regional EPR system. This includes national stakeholders from the 12 project countries, including governmental authorities, recycling companies, WEEE importers/exporters, EEE producers (if existing), CSOs, NGOs, representatives from the informal sector etc.

Instructions: Kindly answer all sections / questions relevant to your field of work/expertise. You can skip those questions that are not relevant to your area of work.

Contacts: If you require assistance, including if you'd like to discuss a different way to compile the survey (through interview, offline format etc.), please contact the Project Coordinator elena.dangelo@unitar.org.

2. GLOSSARY

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE): all products with circuitry or electrical components and a power or battery supply. It encompasses a wide range of products such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machines and hairdryers, mobile phones, wireless headphones and tablets, etc.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE or e-waste): EEE that has been discarded by its owner as waste, without the intent for reuse

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including collection, recycling and disposal. It aims to reduce waste and encourage sustainable product design by shifting the burden from governments to manufacturers. In practice, EPR can involve setting up take-back systems for recycling, paying fees to fund collection and recycling programs, or ensuring products are designed for easier recycling.

Best Available Techniques (BAT): refers to the most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation, which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing the basis for emission limit values and other permit conditions designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole. In the context of waste management facilities, BAT includes techniques that are economically and technically viable for reducing emissions and environmental impacts.

Best Environmental Practices (BEP): are the application of the most appropriate combination of environmental control measures and strategies. BEP aims to prevent or minimize the generation of waste and its harmful effects on the environment. This includes practices such as waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and proper disposal methods.

Informal sector: the informal sector in waste management refers to unregulated, small-scale activities where individuals or groups collect, sort, and recycle waste materials outside formal systems, often without legal recognition or protection.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

Email Address

Organization

Country

Gender: How do you identify?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other

4. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

If WEEE legislation of WEEE-related policy are in place in your country, which are the products covered? (Please copy paste the list of products from the relevant legislation/policy).

If there is no specific WEEE legislation in the country, are any of the products listed in the 'Correspondence table with UNU-KEY' (included in the data gathering excel) covered in the general waste legislation or specific legislation? If yes, please provide below the official title of the legislation and possibly a link to access it.

Which elements are most needed, in your country's legal framework, to effectively support the EPR implementation? (Please rank from the most to the least needed).

- Clear definition of producer responsibilities – law must outline the obligations for producers to manage end-of-life products _____
- Improved collection and recycling systems – regulations should enhance the creation or support of infrastructure for collecting and recycling products _____
- Capacity building – initiatives to train stakeholders in maintaining collection and recycling systems _____
- Enforcement mechanisms – strong measures to ensure compliance with EPR requirements, including proportional penalties for non-compliance, combined with capacity building for inspectors _____
- Funding and financial mechanisms – legal provisions for financing EPR schemes, such as producer fees or eco-taxes _____
- Transparency and reporting requirements – laws should mandate regular reporting and transparency in the handling of waste and recycling efforts, supported by capacity building initiatives _____
- Consumer engagement & Awareness – regulations to promote public participation and education on EPR practices _____
- Other _____

5. INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Do you believe the operational bodies in your country have sufficient resources, expertise and infrastructure to effectively manage WEEE?

- ☐ Not adequate at all
- ☐ Very little adequate
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Fully adequate
- ☐ I don't know

How would you assess the current level of coordination among key stakeholders (producers, recyclers and waste managers) in your country's waste management sector? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Very effective – there is already strong collaboration, with clear roles and effective communication between stakeholders
- ☐ Somewhat effective – stakeholders communicate regularly, but coordination could be improved in certain areas
- ☐ Ineffective – stakeholders rarely coordinate, resulting in inefficiencies in waste management and unclear communication channels
- ☐ Uncertain – it is unclear how well stakeholders coordinate in the waste management sector
- ☐ Other _____

Which main public and private actors in your country should be involved in the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please rank from the most – 1 – to the least important – 7).

- Government agencies – responsible for setting regulations, monitoring compliance and ensuring enforcement _____
- Private sector / producers – accountable for financing/organizing collection and recycling systems + ensuring product design for recyclability _____
- Producers Responsibilities Organizations (PROs) – coordinating collection, recycling and reporting compliance with EPR regulations _____
- Recycling facilities / industry experts – managing the infrastructure for recycling and disposal of WEEE, ensuring efficient processing _____
- Consumers – engage in proper disposal and circular strategies (reuse, recycle..) _____
- NGO / Civil society – support in public awareness, education and monitoring efforts to promote effective recycling/circular strategies _____
- Other _____

Are you aware of voluntary initiatives or measures put in place by the industry to contribute to WEEE management?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please specify below, by providing title/info or the link to the relevant initiatives.

6. FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

How would you describe the structure and maturity of the electronics market in your country? (Select the most appropriate option).

- ☐ Well-developed and competitive – mature market with strong local and international producers, diverse product offerings, and advanced supply chains
- ☐ Growing, but still in development
- ☐ Some established players, increasing local production, and expanding market potential, but with room for growth
- ☐ Emerging market
- ☐ Limited local production, reliance on imports, and underdeveloped supply chains
- ☐ Nascent or underdeveloped
- ☐ Minimal local production, few market players, and heavy dependence on imports with weak industry infrastructure
- ☐ Other

What are the financial instruments currently in place to finance the management of WEEE in your country? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding
- ☐ Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees
- ☐ Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes

- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

Which other economic and market-based instruments could be used to support WEEE management / EPR system (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Government Funding – Taxes, municipal budgets, and public funds
- ☐ Waste Collection Fees – Households and businesses pay for waste services
- ☐ Landfill Tipping Fees – Charges for waste disposal at landfills
- ☐ Private Sector Contributions – Voluntary recycling programs by businesses
- ☐ International aid and grants – Funding from NGOs and or global organizations
- ☐ Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) schemes
- ☐ Advanced Deposit Fee / deposit refund fee (= a refundable deposit is added to the price of a product, which is refunded to consumers when they return the used product or packaging)
- ☐ Advanced Disposal Fee (= a non-refundable fee added to the price of a product and paid by the consumer to cover future disposal and recycling costs)
- ☐ Other

7. COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Is there a WEEE collection system in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How is WEEE collected in your country? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection points (e.g. bin/boxes in streets or retail stores, collection centers etc.)
- ☐ Pickup at household by informal sector (e.g. informal waste pickers, local collectors)
- ☐ Door-to-door collection system (formal sector)
- ☐ Other

Are there dismantling / recycling facilities in place in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are existing facilities implementing best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BET)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Do WEEE recycling and disposal practices in your country comply with environmental standards?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are dismantling / recycling facilities equipped with proper tools and safety equipment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

Are workers in the WEEE management sector duly trained to handle collection, dismantling, recovery processes etc.?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ I don't know

What is needed to scale up existing WEEE dismantling / treatment facilities? (Please rank from the most to the least relevant).

- Expansion of facility capacity and land availability _____
- Investment in advanced recycling technologies _____
- Increased access to specialized equipment for dismantling _____
- Technical expertise for the efficient management of the other WEEE categories _____
- Training and development of skilled workers _____
- Better waste sorting and pre-processing system _____
- Other _____

8. DATA AND MONITORING

Who is responsible for collecting WEEE data? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ National statistic body
- ☐ Ministry of Environment (or other GOV institutions)
- ☐ International organizations
- ☐ WEEE collection companies
- ☐ WEEE treatment companies
- ☐ Other

Is there a regular (e.g. annual) reporting system in place on EEE and WEEE.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not yet, but it is planned
- ☐ I don't know

9. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

What is currently in place in your country to support public awareness and engagement in WEEE disposal and recycling? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Efficient network of collection points
- ☐ Public awareness campaign and education programs
- ☐ Incentive programs (e.g. consumers are rewarded through financial incentives for returning WEEE to formal collection points or recycling centers)
- ☐ Other

Can you specify which awareness and education programs are in place?

How do consumers typically dispose of their WEEE ? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Drop off at designated collection points or recycling centers (formal channel)
- ☐ Dispose through informal collectors
- ☐ Dispose with other waste (e.g. household waste)
- ☐ Uncertain or unknown

10. INFORMAL SECTOR

At which stages is the informal sector involved in WEEE management? (Select all options that apply).

- ☐ Collection
- ☐ Sorting
- ☐ Dismantling
- ☐ Treatment
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other

Can you assess the size of the informal sector, in the WEEE management sector in your country?

- ☐ <25% of the overall WEEE management?
- ☐ Between 25–50%
- ☐ Between 50–75%
- ☐ >75%
- ☐ Unknown

Are there any programs/initiatives aimed at integrating the informal sector into formal systems? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

11. READINESS TOWARDS EPR SYSTEM

Are the main challenges foreseen in the adoption of an EPR for WEEE management sector in your country? (Please rank from most (1) to least (6) important).

- Legal & regulatory - lack of specific legislation, enforcement challenges or unclear responsibilities _____
- Financial & Economic - High implementation costs, insufficient funding mechanisms or resistance from producers _____
- Technical and infrastructure - Limited recycling facilities, collection systems, or technology for proper WEEE processing _____
- Stakeholder Cooperation - Lack of coordination among government, businesses and informal sector _____
- Public awareness and participation - Low consumer awareness or engagement in proper WEEE disposal _____
- Other _____

Do you have good practices related to EPR scheme in your country or outside to share (e.g. some steps taken to implement in EPR in WEEE or in another waste stream such as plastic waste etc.)? (If yes, please provide title, short description and website if available).

12. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Do you have evidence, in your country or in the region, of landfills or dumping sites where WEEE is disposed of if a non-environmentally sound manner (including mixed with other types of waste, ELVs, metals etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I've heard about them but never saw them
- ☐ I don't know

Have new jobs related to the WEEE sector been created in the last 5 years in your country?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and data are available from responsible entities (please provide information)

Are there plans, at national level, that envisage the creation of new jobs related to the WEEE sector and/or green sector in the next 5 years?

- ☐ No
- ☐ It is possible, but we do not have evidences
- ☐ Yes, but we do not have specific data
- ☐ Yes, and references are available from the responsible entities (please provide reference information)

Are women, children and/or other vulnerable groups involved in the informal sector – e.g. in the collection, dismantling of WEEE?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

13. TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS

Does your country export WEEE for treatment purposes?

- ☐ Yes, to other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main receiving countries.

Does your country import WEEE for treatment or other purposes?

- ☐ Yes, from other countries in the region
- ☐ Yes, from other countries globally
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unknown

Please list the main sending countries.

14. CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

What are the current main limitations of the WEEE management systems (please rank/order them from the most to the least important).

- Gaps in legislation _____
- Gaps in infrastructure, technology and expertise related to WEEE management _____
- Lack of financing _____
- Lack of political commitment _____
- Lack of effective enforcement _____
- Competition from the informal sector _____
- Illegal exports _____
- Political and economic stability _____
- Lack of consumers' interest and commitment to properly dispose of WEEE _____
- Other _____

What are your suggestions for improvements of the WEEE management system in your country?

15. REGIONAL COOPERATION

What is the current level of policy harmonization and cross-border cooperation in the region for WEEE management (please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Well established – Formal policies, agreements and active collaboration exist between countries
- ☐ Moderate – Some cooperation exists, but it is limited in scope or effectiveness
- ☐ Minimal – Few cross-border initiatives, with occasional ad-hoc cooperation.
- ☐ Non-existent – No formal cooperation or coordination between countries

- ☐ Regulatory barriers – Legal or policy restrictions hinder cross-border collaboration
- ☐ Ongoing discussions – Efforts are in progress to establish cross-border partnerships
- ☐ Other

Are there any legal or practical initiatives in place at regional level related to WEEE management (e.g. bilateral or regional agreements, regional recycling centers etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please provide details.

Would a regional approach facilitate the implementation of an EPR scheme? (Please select all options that apply).

- ☐ Yes, it would reduce implementation costs – shared infrastructure and systems can help reduce the financial burden on individual countries
- ☐ Yes, it would create harmonized regulations – a regional approach can ensure consistency in EPR requirements across borders, making compliance easier for producers and stakeholders
- ☐ Yes, it would enhance cross-border cooperation – collaboration between countries can improve recycling and waste management systems, benefiting the region as a whole
- ☐ No, it may create additional complexity – differences in national laws, political systems, and waste management capacities might complicate a regional approach
- ☐ No, each country context is too different – local needs and conditions may require tailored, country-specific EPR schemes rather than a regional approach
- ☐ Uncertain – it is unclear whether a regional approach would be beneficial for EPR implementation in my country
- ☐ Other

Annex 2.

Economic Impact Analysis Template

COLLECTION INFORMATION

COLLECTION						
Which e-waste category is collected in your country?	Comment (if the 10 categories are not used, please provide national code or description of the products collected)	How is the category (Column A) or product (Column B) collected in your country?	How is the system (Column C) currently financed ?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column D, further detail here)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the collection in your country?	What is the estimated price for the collection of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [USD\$]
Example						
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Formal	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme		50	300
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 1		Informal	Self-financing		200	150
Cat 2		Informal	Self-financing		200	120
Cat 3		Informal	Self-financing		200	160
Cat 4		Informal	Self-financing		200	300

TREATMENT OPERATION

TREATMENT													
Is the collected e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) treated in your country?	If 'No, outside the country' (Column H), to which country the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) is sent to?	What is the average sale price of one tonne of e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) exported for recycling [+ or - USD\$]	What is the treatment capacity of the e-waste category (Column A) or product (Column B) in your country? [tonne]	Comment (Column K – specify if the treatment capacity refers to a mix of e-waste categories, codes or products)	What is the estimated number of people involved in the treatment in your country?	Which processes are mainly used to dismantle, treat or recycle the e-waste category (Column A), code or product (Column B) in your country?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column N, further detail here)	What are the main output fractions that are separated?	Comment (if 'Other' in Column P, further detail here)	How much of the output fraction (Column P) is produced yearly in your country? [tonne]	What is the average sale price of the fraction (Column P)? [+ or - USD\$]	Where is this fraction (Column P) usually traded?	To which country this fraction (Column P) is traded to?
Example													
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Metal frame		250	50	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 2	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Compressor		5	25	In the country	
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 4	50	Automated separation/ dismantling		Metal fraction		90	30	In the Caribbean region	SUR
Yes, in the country	USA	150	2000	this is valid for cat 1 and 5	50	Physical Treatment – magnetic separation		Plastic fraction		80	-10	In the Caribbean region	TTO
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500	this is valid for cat 1 and 6	50	Physical Treatment – separation		PCB		2	72	Outside the Caribbean region	USA
Yes, in the country	MEX, USA	50	500		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Magnet		6	20	Outside the Caribbean region	MEX, USA
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, EU	-50	150		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Ferrous metals		20	50	I do not know	
No, outside the country	MEX, USA, NLD	100	200		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		4	20	I do not know	
I do not know	MEX, USA, NLD	100	350		600	Manual separation/ dismantling		Compressor		2	20	I do not know	

Annex 3.

In-country Mission Plan and Stakeholders

OVERVIEW OF MEETINGS/SITE VISITS

Country	Organization/company	Representative	Date	Address
Belize	Department of Environment (DOE) Belize	Focus Group (see details stakeholders in the table below)	June 5 th , 2025	1st Floor, Green Complex Building, 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan City
Belize	Belize Electricity Limited (BEL)	Ms. Kadie Usher	June 6 th , 2025	2 1/2 Miles Philip Goldson Highway, Belize City, Belize
Belize	ASR Group Belize Sugar	Ms. Saedie Lienez	June 6 th , 2025	Orange Walk Town, Belize, BZ

ATTENDEES FOCUS GROUP MEETING JUNE 5TH 2025

Name	Organization
Ms. Kadie Usher	Belize Electricity Limited (BEL)
Ms. Celi Cho	Department of Environment
Mr. Nahir Matus	Department of Environment
Mr. Gregory Noralez	Belize Customs and Excise
Mr. Inar Cayetano	Fortis Belize
Mr. William Usher	Belize Recycle and Waste Management Association
Mr. Marco Leal	BCRC NPA Belize
Mr. Freddy Ewan	Customs Department
Ms. Zully Ventura	Cellular World
Ms. Sonia Gutiereg	Cellular World
Ms. Saedie Lienez	Sugar Company

PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE FOCUS GROUP MEETING AND THE SITE VISITS



Focus Group meeting held on the 5th of June 2025



Focus Group meeting held on the 5th of June 2025



Old meter crusher at Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) (June 6th, 2025)



Crushed meters at BEL (June 6th, 2025)



Crushed meters at BEL (June 6th, 2025)



Team Unitar/SUWAMA, NPA Belize and BEL representatives at BEL (June 6th, 2025)





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